Bailadila Deposit II-B by NMDC in the joint venture.

Funds for State Minorities Development Finance Corporation

2763. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided by the Central Government to the State Minorities Development Finance Corporations of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and the current year;

(b) how much of it was utilised by the respectives State Minorities Development Corporations for various employment generation and other development schemes and how much of it was surrendered back or reappropriated; and

(c) the number of development projects financed therewith, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) During 1994-95 National Minorities Development Corporation has disbursed a loan amount of Rs. 5.83 crores to the State Channelising Agencies of Maharashtra and Rs. 1.36 crores was disbursed to the State Channelising Agencies of Madhya Pradesh during 1995-96. No disbursements have been made to Gujarat & Orissa States so far.

(b) By the middle of June, 96, the State Channelising Agencies of Maharashtra disbursed Rs. 5.63 crores to the actual beneficiaries. The State Channelising Agencies of Madhya Pradesh disbursed Rs. 0.55 crores to the actual beneficiaries by the middle of July, 96.

No funds were surrendered or eappropriated by these agencies.

(c) The State Channelising Agency of Maharashtra financed 850 development projects in 1994-95 and that of Madhya Pradesh financed 743 development projects in 1995-96.

Children Working under Appalling Condition

2764. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that about 250 million children were compelled to work under appalling conditions today in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that about 3500 out of the 4000 odd cases booked in connection with child labour were disposed of without any stringent punishment to the law offenders, till 15th August, 1996; and

(c) whether the Chairperson of the "Bachpan Bachao Andolan" on 15th August, 1996 assailed Government ever child labour for showing neither any political will nor initiative in this regard, as reported by the Hindustan Times dated 16th August, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The information on the number of working children is not factually correct. As per 1981 census the total number of working children in India was 13.65 mill lion. The National Sample Survey 1987-88 put the number of working children at 17.02 million. It is estimated that the total number of working children is around 20 million. Information on the prosecution and conviction under child labour related laws till 15th August, 1996 have not been received so far from the State/UT Governments. Therefore the claims on the number of prosecution and conviction can not be verified.

(c) Government has noted the content of the news item. However the state-

ments is reportedly made in the news item are refuted. The steps taken by Government lor withdrawal and rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations include (i) ensuring compliance of the implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and the provisions concerning children in other labour laws, (ii) sanctioning of 76 National Child Labour Projects to cover about 1.5 lakh children in the child labour endemic States and (iii) sanctioning of funds for carrying out surveys in 123 districts and for awareness generation activities in 133 districts. The political will of the present Government for elimination of child labour is already reflected by the fact that the 'Common Minimum Programme' of the Government seeks to eradicate child labour in all occupations and industries.

Turn-Key Execution of Sintering Plant at Bhilai

2765. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether for turn-key execution of Sintering Plant III at Bhilai, a consortium comprising TPE (Moscow), HSCL, a PSU and Mukund Ltd. India had quoted for a package which was found tcchno-commercially acceptable;

(b) whether after the final stages of price negotiants HSCL has been edged out of the consortium; if so, acton taken by his Ministry to support its own PSU;

(c) if not, the amount of order placed on HSCL in the total package ordered on TPE;

(d) whether for the same job, another package was quoted by a consortium comprising HEC, Ranchi, KAWASAKI, group of Japan and others;

(e) whether similarly during award of the job to the consortium, HEC has been left out; and

(f) if so, the reasons thereof along with the support SAIL is giving to another PSU on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The Sinter Plant-Ill (SP 3) project at Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has been divided into three turnkey packages as follows:

Pakage		Description
SP3-1	Sinter Machine	cGlobal
SP3-2	Ra Material Stor-age and Handling System	Global
SP3-3	Main Step Down Sub-Station (MSDS-IV)	Indigenous

M/s TPE had submitted tenders as-prime bidder against two global packages of Sinter Plant-Ill at BSP. M/s. HSCL was one of the Indian associated of M/s TPE in both the packages. Both the tenders of TPE were found techno-com-mcrcially acceptable by SAIL. However, M/s. TPE was the lowest tenderer for only one package namely, Ram Material Storage and Handling System, for which the contract has been awarded to TPE.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. During price negotiations M/s. TPE had informed SAIL in writing that their Indian associate (HSCL and others) did not agree to reduce the price as required by them, and also that the consortium agreement with the associates had ceased to exist. Accordingly, since M/s. TPE had excluded HSCL as their associate, the amount of order on HSCL in the total package ordered on M/s. TPE is nil. However, HSCL is still associated as a sub-contractor for the fabrication, supply and erection of technological structures and erection of building structures, and Letters of Intent valued at Rs". 12.04 crores have been placed by the principal contractors on HSCL.